

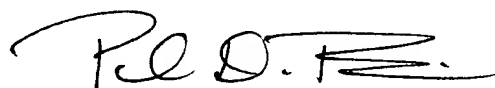
Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and modification of the species requirement to clarify the record in the event that one or more continuing applications is filed. Specifically, the only appreciable difference between the elected species, Species J shown in Figure 9, and Species I, shown in Figure 8, is that Species J has a round shape while Species I has an oval or oblong shape. As patentability does not rest on this difference, the species requirement should be reconsidered and modified, at least for this reason.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Thus, all current claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. If the Examiner does not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and accelerate the eventual allowance of the claims.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 16, 2001



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